

of young trees is made near and around the stump of the old tree and seedlings are also put in along the hauling roads. In this way a future growth is assured. In three years one of the plants has attained a height of 20 feet, and the average is even 15 feet.

Besides this the girth limit insures fresh supplies though the forest is a little abnormal in respect of small trees, but this may only be local, as by no means every portion has been visited.

It will thus be seen that a permanent supply of timber is aimed at and is no doubt secured. But it may be asked at what cost. Roughly, 50 small and 12 large areas have been and are being worked by several different firms paying royalty and export duty, in the aggregate about \$15 per tree (not at all heavy with such valuable wood).

Recently, during 1904 and 1903, more than enough was raised in this way to pay for the Forestry Department (vote, 1904-1905, \$50,000), which is all the more satisfactory as all the royalty goes to the native chiefs and not into the treasury, which reduces the total raised by quite a fifth.

In a further paper it may be of interest to follow the whole organization in detail.

Through the kindness of Mr. R. S. Cook, of Prince Albert, we are enabled to show in this issue two pictures of forest scenes in the district north of the Saskatchewan River. It will be somewhat of a surprise to those who have considered the western provinces as all prairie land to see the size of the timber that is being cut. The most important forest growth in that district is spruce, but some large aspen poplar may be observed among the standing timber in the photograph. Jack pine is also found on the lighter soil of this district.

A fact of special interest is the discovery by Mr. Wm. McInnes, of the Geological Survey staff, of a new species of birch in the district north of Lake Superior. Specimens of a black birch noted in the previous year were brought home and handed to Professor John Macoun, who submitted them to Dr. C. S. Sargent for determination. Dr. Sargent named this birch *Betula fontinalis*, Sargent, a species formerly confounded with *B. occidentalis*, Nutt. The range of this tree in the sub-arctic region is not yet known. Specimens of this birch were found last year as far north as latitude 53° 35' north.